

**William Ashendorf***Attorney / Mediator*

January 22, 2002

Renata Hesse  
Trial Attorney  
Antitrust Division  
Department of Justice  
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20530

Microsoft Case

Dear Ms. Hesse:

As an attorney and business owner, I know the impact litigation and government regulations can have on a company. I am also very interested in how technology has changed the legal profession and the economy so I have been following the Microsoft antitrust with interest.

The proposed settlement agreement will provide adequate remedies to all involved in this industry – Microsoft, its competitors, computer manufacturers, software developers and consumers. The protections for Microsoft competitors include access to technical information about the Windows operating system so non-Microsoft software systems can be used. Microsoft can renew its efforts to develop innovative software and continue its technology leadership in the global economy.

It is time to resolve this issue and get technology companies back to the business of innovation and product development. In my own city of Charlotte, we have seen the impact of a slowing economy, with some technology companies closing and others reducing their workforces. Other industries are also facing tough times. A thriving technology industry could provide a boost to other parts of the economy.

I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

  
William Ashendorf

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January 16, 2002

Renata Hesse  
Trial Attorney  
Antitrust Division  
Department of Justice  
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20530

Re: Microsoft Case

Dear Ms. Hesse:

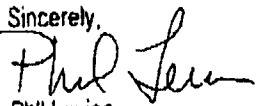
As a restaurant owner and consumer, I've seen the immediate impact that slowdown in the economy is having on individuals and businesses. I live daily with the changes in government regulations. Many are important to the health of our citizens, but other regulations and antitrust litigation can have a damaging effect on innovation and production.

I have been following the antitrust litigation against Microsoft and believe that the proposed settlement agreement strikes a balance between the needs of the company and those of its competitors. Protections for competitors include greater flexibility in adding non-Microsoft products to the Windows operating system and access to technical specifications about the operating system. At the same time, Microsoft can continue its efforts to develop new, innovative products.

It is time to accept this agreement and get technology companies back to the business of innovation and product development. A thriving technology industry can have a ripple effect on my own business. I know that here in North Carolina a strong boost in technology and other sectors is needed to build our economy back to the level we had a year or even three years ago.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,

  
Phil Levine